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Alt, Jim, Government, Harvard University
Baumgartner, Frank, Political Science, Pennsylvania State University
Bearpark, Andy, Director General, British Association of Private Security Companies London
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Eriksen, Erik O., Political Science, Arena, University of Oslo
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Mayer, Hartmut, Politics, Oxford University

Melaina, Marc, Engineer, National Renewal Energy Laboratory,
Golden, Co.

Moran, Michael, Government, University of Manchester

Natalicchi, Giorgio, Social Science, University of Florence

Naurin, Daniel, Political Science, Gothenburg University

Page, Edward C., Government, London School of Economics

Painter, Martin, Public Administration, Hong Kong City University

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Birmingham

Zito, Anthony, Politics, University of Newcastle

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To understand public policy it is necessary to relate ideas to concrete problems of government. This Journal therefore publishes articles that use concepts derived from any of the social sciences to analyse a significant problem facing contemporary governments.

Good ideas, like the problems of the contemporary world, admit no boundaries. Articles that make explicit comparisons across nations are particularly welcome. Every article is intended to be relevant across national boundaries, dealing with problems common in many societies.

The problems of the contemporary world unite what academic disciplines and national political systems tend to keep apart. Substantive concerns come first. Methodology and concepts should be instrumental in achieving analytic purposes, and concepts and theories should be grounded in an awareness of government *wie es eigentlich gewesen ist*.

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The distinctive readership of the Journal, cutting across academic disciplines and national boundaries, makes the following points of particular importance to contributors.

Whatever the specific subject matter, the relevance of conclusions to a broad understanding of policymaking should be made explicit.

Whatever the national setting, the extent to which conclusions are generalizable to many nations should be explicitly discussed.

Each article should show an awareness of the constraints that public institutions place upon policymaking.

Jargon should be avoided; technical terms not widely understood should be clearly defined; and the conclusions of statistical analyses should be set out in prose, as well as being supported by quantitative information in tables, footnotes and text as appropriate.

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Campbell, D. (1971) Reforms as experiments. In F. Caro (ed.), *Readings in Evaluation Research*. New York: Russell Sage.

May, J. and A. Wildavsky (eds.) (1978) *The Policy Cycle*, Beverly Hills: Sage.

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